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June 4, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The tragic discovery of the undocumented remains of 215 Indigenous children at the site of the former residential school in Kamloops has reminded us about the continued and lasting impact these institutions have had on our Indigenous Canadians.

You may have noticed that our school flags are flying at half-mast. All federal and provincial buildings have also lowered their flags. This is a sign of respect and a way to honour the loss of so many Indigenous children. The flags will remain lowered for 215 hours – one hour to recognize each of the children lost.



We are encouraging our students and staff to wear orange shirts to acknowledge this tragedy and honour our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. As part of our community, please take the time to reflect on the lost children, their families, and the devastating effect that residential schools have had and continue to have on Indigenous communities.

If you are unsure where to start in learning about Truth and Reconciliation within Canada or the impact of residential schools, please click through to any of the following links:

- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Calls to Action](#)
- [Reconciliation Canada – Honouring 215 Children](#)
- [We Never Knew – The Life of a Child in a BC Residential School](#)
- [UBC Indigenous Foundations – Residential School Systems](#)

You may also wonder how to talk to your children about this tragedy or how to answer questions that they may ask. These are difficult conversations, but definitely important ones. The North American Center for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response has an excellent article called, “How to Talk to Your Children About the Unfolding Events at the Former Kamloops Residential School,” by Dr. Marlene Wong. It is the second article on this page: <https://northamericancenterforthreatassessmenttraumaresponse.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/d/B20526C6CBDF245C2540EF23F30FEDED/3820B721CA7E86B66A4D3D471B02C3D7>



You will notice our displays around the school to support the Indigenous community.

We stand in mourning with the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc people, Residential School Survivors, their families, and their communities as they process this tragic loss.

COINS FOR CHLOE FUNDRAISER



This was the second and final week of fundraising for BC Children’s Hospital on behalf of Chloe. [SchoolCashOnline](#) will be left open for online contributions through Sunday. We will announce the grand total next week, but so far Chloe has raised over \$4500. Thank you so much for your generosity and support for Chloe. We hope that Chloe’s treatment and recovery go well. She was able to come by the school this week for a short visit outside with her classmates, who were thrilled to see her again!

DON'T FORGET!

This week has certainly reminded us of the importance of being prepared for the weather (it seems only a short time ago that we were talking about heavy rain!). Please remember to send your child to school with sunscreen, a hat, cool clothing and a water bottle. We have been having more students coming to school without a water bottle, and they can't manage without drinking for a whole day. Our water fountains have been shut down, and we only have bottle filling stations available. No drop offs during the day requires families to be really organized in the mornings. Getting everything ready the night before can help to prevent scrambling before school! Don't forget to leave the rain gear at school, too...We can expect there to be more rainy days before the end of the year.



COVID IMMUNIZATIONS



You have recently received emails regarding Covid vaccines for those 12 years of age and older. This means that adults and some children in your family can now be vaccinated against Covid. Refer to the information sent home to find out how to book your vaccination.

SCHOOL PROTOCOLS IN JULY

Protocols in place at schools are guided by the Provincial Health Office and will continue until the end of our school year in July. The next update after the mid-June update will be in preparation for schools to reopen in September. While community restrictions may be eased while Spul'u'kwuks is still in session, they won't apply to our school setting.



PAC MEETING

The next PAC meeting is on Thursday, June 17th at 6:30pm. This meeting will be made up of two parts, the AGM and regular PAC meeting. Please check your email for the Zoom link and Executive Nomination Form.

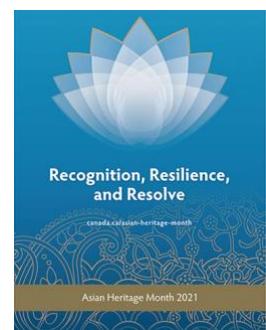
CITY OF RICHMOND – CYCLING NETWORK PLAN UPDATE

The City is updating their Cycling Network Plan and want to hear from students. They would like student feedback on the existing cycling network, including how students get to school and where they ride in the city. Please visit <https://www.letstalkrichmond.ca/studentcycling-ph1> to complete a short survey, add your thoughts to an Ideas Board, and use the Mapping Tool to identify where improvements may be needed. The consultation period is open June 1 to 30. They look forward to hearing from you!



ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

In previous newsletters, we shared information about different members of the Asian community. In this last installment, we need to recognize that Canada's treatment of people of Asian descent has not always been positive. You may already have heard about the internment of the Japanese during WWII (some were from Richmond!) and the treatment of Chinese workers who were building the Canadian Pacific Railway. Do you know about the Komagata Maru? Use this link to find out more about what happened to the passengers on the ship when it arrived in Vancouver Harbour: <http://komagatamarujourney.ca/>



SPUL'U'KWUKS CLUBHOUSE



Tomorrow's TopKids (TTK) Spul'u'kwuks Clubhouse is currently accepting applications for the Before and After School Child Care program at our school. Operating from the multipurpose room, they engage in fun activities such as baking, art and more; as the weather has been getting better, they have also been spending lots of time outside on the playground. To find out more about their program please visit their website at <http://ttk.org/> or contact the Topkids office at 604-437-4744. Alternatively, Kristen Ylo is at Spul'u'kwuks before and after school daily; feel free to pop by, say "hello" and ask any questions you may have.